

ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

United Districts
of South-West
Cheshire

FOR 1949.

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W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
(Medical Officer of Health).

ANNUAL REPORT

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Medical Officer of Health

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United Districts of South West Cheshire

for the Year 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Joint Committee for the United Districts of South West Cheshire.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Rural Districts of Chester and Tarvin for the year 1949.

The National Vital Statistics show a decrease in the Birth and Infant Mortality Rates. The Death Rate is slightly higher than in 1948. The Vital Statistics for Chester Rural District follow the same pattern; whilst in Tarvin Rural District the Birth Rate shows a slight increase, the Death Rate and Infant Mortality Rate are both lower than the previous year.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified in the combined districts in 1949. Measles, Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever were the most prevalent of the common Infectious Diseases in both districts; although there was a considerable fall in the number of cases of Measles compared with 1948.

Problems of Housing, Water Supplies and Drainage Schemes continued to be the chief pre-occupation of the Sanitary Staffs, with little evidence of improvement.

Included at the end of the Report, is my first Annual Report as Divisional Medical Officer, on the Personal Health Services of the Ellesmere Port Division, of which Chester and Tarvin Rural Districts form part.

It will be of interest to members of both Councils who are not on the Divisional Health Committee, to have details of the Health Services operating on behalf of the County Council in this area.

I wish to thank the members of the Public Health Staffs of both Rural District Councils for their help in compiling this Report and their loyal co-operation throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS OF THE COMBINED DISTRICTS.

Area—106,270.

For Birth and Death Rates vide respective districts.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1949 was 16.7 per 1,000 population, compared with 17.9 for 1948.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.7 per 1,000 population; the rate for 1948 was 10.8.

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales, i.e., Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births was 32; the rate for 1948 was 34.

CHESTER RURAL DISTRICT.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Section A.

Area—43,677 acres.

Civilian Population: Registrar General's estimate Mid 1949	20,330
Total Population (Including Military)	25,020
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1949) according to Rate Books	5,544
Number of Houses built in 1949	190
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1949	£139,353
Product of 1d. Rate at 1st April, 1949	£535

The Chief Industry of the District is Dairy Farming.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for 1949.

Births:—

Live Births,	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	143	155	298
Illegitimate	4	1	5
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated civilian population—14.9.			
Still Births.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births—13.0.			
Still Birth-rate per 1,000 civilian population—0.2.			

Deaths:—

Male.	Female.	Total.
118	109	227
Death rate per 1,000 population—11.2.		
By use of a Comparability factor of 0.97, the adjusted Death Rate is 10.86.		

Deaths (due to maternal causes):—

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other Maternal Causes	Nil

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	Nil	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Infant Mortality rate, i.e., per 1,000 live births ...			3.3

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (Under 2 years of age) ...	Nil
Particulars of unusual or excessive mortality during the year:—	

	Male.	Female.	Total.	In 1948
Heart Disease	42	41	83	65
Cancer	13	14	27	31
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	13	14	27	24

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1949.

	Males.	Females.
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Measles	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
Influenza	—	1
Acute Infective Encephalitis	—	2
Cancer—all sites	13	14
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	13	14
Heart Disease	42	41
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	9	5
Bronchitis	5	3
Pneumonia	2	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	—	—
Appendicitis	—	4
Other Digestive Diseases	2	4
Diabetes	—	1
Maternal Causes	—	—
Premature Births	—	1
Suicide	3	—
Road Traffic Accidents	4	1
Other Violent Causes	4	4
All other Causes	14	8
	<hr/> 118 <hr/>	<hr/> 109 <hr/>

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.**Public Health Officers in Chester Rural District.**

Section B.

Medical Officer of Health.

W. J. Birchall, M.B., M.R.C.S.,
D.P.H.Chief Sanitary Inspector,
Cleansing Superintendent and
Meat Inspector.H. E. Stone, M.S.I.A., R.S.I., and
Joint Board Certificate for
Sanitary Inspector.
Liverpool University Certifi-
cates for Sanitary Knowledge
and Meat and other Foods.
Cambridge University Certifi-
cates.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.	J. G. Wilkes, R.S.I., and Joint Board Certificate for Sanitary Inspector. R.S.I. Meat and other Foods. Liverpool University Certificate for Sanitary Knowledge and Meat and Other Foods.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector.	R. A. Jackson, R.S.I., and Joint Board Certificate for Sanitary Inspector. R.S.I. Meat and Other Foods.
Pupil Sanitary Inspector.	C. K. Jones.
Clerk/Typists.	Miss B. Crewe. Miss B. Ince.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Since 5th July, 1948, the Regional Laboratory Service under the Ministry of Health, is available at Birkenhead for free examination of Bacteriological specimens.

The services of the Pathological Department, Chester Royal Infirmary, are utilised for Chemical examinations.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Infectious Diseases are now removed to Clatterbridge Isolation Hospital by the Chester City Ambulances.

Accident and Sick cases are also dealt with by the Chester City Ambulances. There are now no special ambulances for Infectious cases, with the exception of Smallpox.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

Since 5th July, 1948, Home Nursing in the Rural District is undertaken by District Nurses transferred from the District Nursing Association to the Cheshire County Council, which is the Local Health Authority.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics, including Clinics solely for diagnosis or consultation. The County Council Clinics are available for residents in this area at:—

- (a) Hoole—Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics. Child Welfare Clinic, Ophthalmic and Dental Clinics.
- (b) Upton—Infant Welfare Clinic.
Saughall—Infant Welfare Clinic.
Barrow—Infant Welfare Clinic.

(c) Chester—Orthopaedic and Tuberculosis.

(e) HOSPITALS.

The General Hospitals at Chester, Clatterbridge and Liverpool are available for residents in the district as well as Special Treatment Centres in Chester and Liverpool.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The position with regard to piped water supplies remains the same as for previous years; each Parish has a piped supply available by various water undertakers with the exception of the Parishes of Croughton and Claverton; in the latter parish there are no dwellings, and in the former only six Farms and Dwellings, all of which derive their supply from four boreholes sunk on their own premises. The supply has been continuous in spite of the dry Summer experienced.

In the remaining parishes the supply has been satisfactorily maintained, and samples submitted for Bacteriological and Chemical examination have proved satisfactory.

The water from your own borehole remains hard, but compared with last year shows a reduction of 0.3 in the Temporary hardness and a reduction of 0.9 in the Permanent hardness with a P.H. value of 7.3, the details are as follows:—

Temporary hardness	15.4
Permanent hardness	1.6
	<hr/>
Total hardness	17.0
	<hr/>

The number of connections made to your mains for domestic and non-domestic purposes during the year is 27.

Details of the piped supplies afforded in your district from public water mains, together with the estimated population of houses (a) supplied direct or (b) by means of standpipes, are shown in the following tabulation,

Parish	No. of Dwellings	Estimated population supplied	
		Direct	Standpipes
Aldford	93	400	—
Bache	17	72	—
Backford	34	136	—
Barrow	231	966	16
Bridge Trafford	11	38	4
Buerton	17	55	—
Capenhurst	48	200	4
Caughall	3	12	—
Chester Castle	2	3	—
Chorlton-by-Backford	29	95	28
Christleton	375	1528	66
Churton Heath	3	12	—
Claverton	—	—	—
Croughton	6	—	—
Dodleston	79	316	—
Dunham Hill	119	497	8
Eaton	20	74	—
Eccleston	79	324	12
Elton	114	464	—
Great Boughton	946	4020	—
Guilden Sutton	121	514	—
Hapsford	35	127	22
Hoole Village	55	215	20
Huntington	290	1235	—
Lea-by-Backford	57	243	—
Lea Newbold	7	18	—
Ledsham	41	174	—
Littleton	148	589	40
Little Stanney	82	348	—
Lower Kinnerton	29	123	—
Marlston-cum-Lache	27	115	—
Mickle Trafford	98	403	14
Mollington	113	475	5
Moston	13	52	—
Picton	22	93	—
Poulton	30	127	—
Puddington	113	425	55
Pulford	86	365	—
Rowton	80	320	20
Saighton	77	327	—
Saughall	362	1528	30
Shotwick	18	77	—
Shotwick Park	20	73	—
Stoak	23	90	7
Thornton-le-Moors	70	246	51
Upton-by-Chester	1213	5096	59
Wervin	24	98	4
Wimbolds Trafford	31	132	—
Woodbank	25	101	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5539	22941	471

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year 166 sewer and drain tests have been carried out: 12 connections have been made to your sewerage systems, whilst 21 Septic Tanks and Filters have been provided.

Additional Sewerage Disposal Works have been constructed to take and treat the sewage from the Housing Schemes constructed by you in the following Parishes:—Backford, Barrow (pending the provision of a Sewerage scheme), Dunham Hill, Guilden Sutton, Hapsford, Little Stanney, Mickle Trafford, Saughall (Temporary, pending the provision of the Sewerage scheme), Thornton-le-Moors.

Main trunk sewerage facilities are available in the Parishes of Christleton, Littleton, Great Boughton, Huntington, Bache and Upton, whilst sewerage facilities are available for parts of the Parishes of Aldford, Saughton, Eccleston, Pulford, Dodleston and Saughall.

It is apparent that proper sewerage systems will have to be provided in those Parishes which now have piped water supplies, particularly with the development by way of Council Housing Schemes now in course of construction; and this necessity is being made more apparent by virtue of the fact that such schemes are provided with sewerage disposal plants which is making the inhabitants of the original houses discontented at having to tolerate the old earth and pail closets because of lack of this service. Parishes most adversely affected in this way are Barrow, Elton, Dunham Hill, Guilden Sutton, Mickle Trafford, Mollington, Rowton and Stoak.

SAUGHALL.

Tenders have been received, considered, and one accepted which has received the approval of the Minister of Health, and the operative date for the commencement of the scheme is fixed for 1st February, 1950. What a sigh of relief will be given when the first sod is cut and the mechanical diggers get on the move. Better 'late' than never.

BARROW.

Negotiations still proceeding; some difficulties ironed out and agreement nearer to a successful conclusion.

ELTON.

The scheme is still on paper, costs are still rising and hope seems to be receding to the dim and distant future, yet we must not give up. This scheme is so essential that we will hope the residents of Mount Pleasant will not have too long to wait to see the fulfilment of the meaning of the name.

DUNHAM HILL.

The propounding of a scheme for this Parish which is daily making its necessity felt seems to be meeting with difficulties, mostly financial. No proposals are yet before you because of this reason. It is said that "you cannot get blood out of a stone" and apparently one cannot get a reasonable sewerage scheme out of rock.

GULDEN SUTTON.

The ray of hope has not yet materialised. No accommodation for the Belle Vue Lane and School area and consequently none for the Village proper.

MICKLE TRAFFORD.

Another hope still waiting for fulfilment,

MOLLINGTON.

I can only repeat my comments in last year's report.

ROWTON.

The nuisances mentioned in my previous report as emanating from outside your area, are still in existence; the necessity and urgency for a suitable scheme are still with us.

STOAK.

The water course is still running, so is the untreated sewage, but it is possible a scheme for the provision of a Sewage Disposal Plant to be erected at a suitable site will be forthcoming at an early date.

There are other Parishes that could be mentioned, but I will mention only one. Dodleston, this is partially sewered and the works are up to capacity and are being continually interfered with by some person or persons unknown and causing untold needless attention.

It is my opinion that a more comprehensive scheme to accommodate the remainder of the Parish and possibly Lower Kinnerton could be formulated to a useful and necessary purpose.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

These continue to receive attention and steps are taken to prevent their pollution as far as possible.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The beginning of the year saw the delivery to the Council of 2 new Bedford 7 cu. yds. Refuse Collection Vehicles, making

in all a total of four vehicles engaged daily in this service, with one Bantam Refuse Collection Vehicle held in reserve and used for emergency purposes and the removal of refuse from the Dale Camp and Moston Military Hospital.

Last year only 27 of the 50 Parishes comprising the District received this service, and it is now extended to the entire District. This meant complete re-organisation of the service, and as was to be expected, it suffered with teething troubles, which in a very short time, as the teams became acquainted with the new areas involved, solved themselves, and it can be said that this service is now running quite smoothly.

Credit for this is in no small measure due to your General Foreman who made it his business to accompany each team in order to acquaint them with the areas of the Parishes and the District.

The Refuse is deposited in Tips at Christleton and the Controlled Tipping system is employed for its disposal. Difficulties experienced have been lack of soil for 'blinding' purposes and excess of paper due to the abolition of Waste Paper Salvage.

The present disposal site is almost worked out and the question of securing some other suitable site is causing some anxiety, which it is hoped will eventually be satisfactorily solved.

During the year, 40 Preliminary Notices requesting the provision of 53 dustbins were served and complied with.

SALVAGE.

The first three months of the year saw the end of a Waste Paper collection competition which resulted in the partial boosting of this service, then in April came a bottle neck in disposal of Waste Paper; Merchants did not want it, supply greatly exceeded demand. In July came the cancellation of the compulsory order to save wastepaper after stocks had accumulated to such an extent that it was impossible to store it, with the consequence that large stocks had to be otherwise disposed of so that from May to November, no waste paper was disposed of to Merchants; but in December, Merchants were able to take 10 tons from us. A most disappointing picture to have to place before you is reflected in the following figures :—

	T	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	32	14	2	—	167	0	0
Textiles	—	15	3	—	13	0	0
Total ...	33	10	1	—	180	0	0

Compared with last year's collection a total figure of less than half by weight as well as value.

SHOPS.

There are few shops in your district which employ labour, and it has not been necessary to take any action under the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature, or the provision of sanitary conveniences.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Nine observations were made during the year when warnings were given which had the desired effect.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are not any Public or privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public, situate in your district.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

It has not been necessary to take any action to rid premises of these pests during the year.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

There are 53 such premises on your registers, including the Ministry of Supply Depots, Capenhurst, Bridge Trafford, and Hapsford and the new M.E.C. Factory at Thornton-le-Moors.

Section D.

HOUSING.

The Housing survey was completed during the early part of the year and a total of 603 houses inspected which have been classified as follows:—

Classification A.	278
„ B.	184
„ C.	100
„ D.	41
Total ...	<hr/> 603 <hr/>

As a guide to what the entire picture may convey, the following summary was given as being comprehensive for the entire survey.

Total Number of Houses inspected	3515
Classification A.	2126
„ B.	931
„ C.	247
„ D.	211
	<hr/> 3515 <hr/>

It is gratifying to record that of this number of houses inspected, only 62 were found to be overcrowded, and it is my opinion the figures show that the housing standard in your District is a high one.

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

1.	(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	937
		(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1604
	(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 (Rural Housing Survey)	603
		(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	715
	(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	41
	(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	284
2.			Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:—	
			Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	47
			Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—	
	(a)		Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
		(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	7
		(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
		(a)	By Owners	7
		(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	NIL
	(b)		Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
		(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	83

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners	95
(b) By Local Authorities in default of Owners	NIL

SQUATTERS.

The six Camps for which you act as Agents on behalf of the Ministry of Health continue in being, but the Camps at Church Lane, Upton and Thornton-le Moors are gradually being reduced in numbers, both of hutments and occupiers, and at the end of the year, these camps comprised 51 hutments, with a total population of 187 persons.

It is apparent that all the hutments are fast approaching the end of their usefulness, and to keep them wind and weather-proof is becoming more difficult, so that the consent of the Ministry of Health has had to be obtained to adopt the practice of demolishing hutments as they become vacant or you re-house the tenants.

Details of the Camps are as follows :—

	No. of occupied Hutments	No. of Adult Occupants	No. of Child Occupants	Total Occupants
1. Wheatfield Camp, Littleton	9	21	19	40
2. Victory Villas, Newton Lane, Upton	8	14	13	27
3. N.F.S. Camp, Church Lane, Upton	8	18	14	32
4. Chapel House Camp, Puddington	16	31	13	44
5. Meadow Villas, Thorton-le-Moors	8	16	19	35
6. Powey Lane Camp, Capenhurst	2	4	5	9
	<hr/> 51	<hr/> 104	<hr/> 83	<hr/> 187

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS.

The 1st October, 1949, was the date fixed for the supervision of all Dairy Farms to pass to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who assumed control and supervision of these premises from that date. Up to that date, in spite of limited powers at your disposal, the standard of the premises and methods of production were considerably improved and there remained very few

farms in your area which did not reach what was then considered to be a reasonable standard of fitness; and thanks are due to the majority of the Producers for their whole hearted co-operation in attaining this standard, slow though, of necessity, it was; and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries will find that so far as your district is concerned, there will be little with which they can find fault.

From the beginning of the year to 30th September, the number of visits paid to Farms producing milk was 423 and the number of premises on the Coouncil's Registers at the latter date was 452, comprised of the following categories:—

Tuberculin Tested	68
Accredited	215
Non-Designated	169
	<hr/>
	452
	<hr/>

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14. Ice Cream.

On the register there are at the end of the year 18 persons who have been granted registration under this section as Retailers of Ice Cream, and 2 Manufacturers.

Prepared Foods.

At the beginning of the year there were 18 persons and premises registered for the purpose of the manufacture of preserved foods intended for sale, but as the result of inspections and representations made, 7 discontinued their business, and registration was automatically cancelled.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The centralised slaughterhouse at Shed Lane for the slaughter of Pigs under the Bacon Board slaughter scheme continues in operation and regular visits are made each week. Details of the carcasses inspected are as follows:—

Carcasses inspected and condemned.

Meat Inspection	Beasts	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	—	—	—	1953	1953
Number inspected ...	—	—	—	1953	1953
All diseases except Tuberculosis:—					
Whole Carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	1	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	53	53

Meat Inspection	Beasts	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis	—	—	—	2.7%	—
Tuberculosis only:—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	3	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	112	112
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tu- berculosis	—	—	—	5.8%	—
Total weight Condemned—1 Ton, 2 Cwt., 2 Qrts., 19 Lbs.					

**List of Samples obtained in the Chester Rural District during the
Year ended 31st December, 1949.**

Name of Sample	Number obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Butter	2	—
Beef and Tomato Paste ...	1	—
Cheese	2	—
Cooking Fat	1	—
Fish Cake	1	—
Hake—Tinned	1	—
Jam	3	—
Kaolin Poultice	1	—
Ice Cream	1	—
Liquid Paraffin	1	—
Margarine	1	—
Meat Paste	1	—
Milk—Evaporated	1	—
Milk—Condensed	1	—
Milk	12	1
Sausage—Breakfast	1	—
Sausage—Pork	1	—
Soup—Vegetable	1	—
Shredded Suet	1	—
Syrup—Golden	1	—
	<hr/> 35	<hr/> 1

UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES.

No.	Sample	Result of Analysis	Remarks
1148	Milk.	34.7 per cent extraneous water.	Fined £40 and £1/1/0 costs. Farmer—Retailer sold bottle to Inspector after trying to substitute another bottle.

All the samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis and particulars of the sample which failed to reach the legal Standard of purity is also shown.

The above report was kindly sent by Mr. Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures, Cheshire County Council.

Section F.

Prevalence of and control over infectious and other diseases, Notifiable diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1949:—

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Pneumonia	9	1	—
Scarlet Fever	17	9	—
	(including 1 Military)		
Erysipelas	2	1	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	1	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	1	—
Para-Typhoid	1	—	—
Influenza	3	2	1
	(including 2 Military)		
Whooping Cough	48	—	—
Measles	93	—	—
	—	—	—
	176	16	2
	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.**New Cases and Mortality during the year.**

Age Periods	NEW CASES			DEATHS		
	Respiratory M. F.	Non- Respiratory M. F.	Total M. & F.	Respiratory M. F.	Non- Respiratory M. F.	Total M. & F.
0-1	— —	— —	—	— —	— —	—
1-5	— 1	— 1	2	— —	— —	—
5-15	— —	1 1	2	— —	— —	—
15-25	— —	— —	—	— —	— —	—
25-35	— 2	— —	2	— —	— —	—
35-45	— 1	— —	1	1 —	— —	1
45-55	— —	— —	—	— —	— —	—
55-65	— —	— 1	1	1 —	— —	1
65 & upwards	— 3	— —	—	— —	— —	—
Age unknown	— —	— —	—	2 1	1 —	4
Totals	— 4	1 3	8	4 1	1 —	6

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.**Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.**

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	61	61	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	61	61	3	—

Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)—					
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	4	4	—	4	—

TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Annual Report for the Year ended 31st December, 1949.

SECTION A.

(1) Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area—62,593 acres.

Population, estimated by Registrar General, mid-year, 1949	14,530
Number of inhabited houses including shops with living accommodation according to Rate Books (end of 1949)	4,336
Number of houses built (ie., completed in 1949)—	
Private Enterprise	19
Council houses	54
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1949	£74,333
Product of rd. Rate at 1st April, 1949	£294/0/1

The area is almost entirely agricultural and residential, farming being the largest labour-employing occupation. There are no other large industries.

(2) Extracts from Vital Statistics for 1949

BIRTHS.

Live Births.	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	124	122	246
Illegitimate	6	8	14
	<u>130</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>260</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population, 17.89

Still Births.	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	5	9
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>

Rate per 1,000 live and still births	33.46
Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ...	0.62

DEATHS.

Male	Female	Total
89	85	174

Natural increase in population (excess of births over deaths)—96.

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—11.97.

Using a Comparability factor of 0.92, the adjusted death rate is 11.01.

Maternal Mortality (excluding Abortion) :—

From Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
From Other Puerperal or Maternal Causes	Nil

(3) Infant Mortality.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:—

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	1	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 6

Infant Mortality Rate, i.e., deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 live births, 23.08. The rate in 1948 was 46.33.

(4) Deaths from Certain Selected Causes.

	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	—
Other forms of tuberculosis	1	—
Cancer of all sites	15	8
Diabetes	1	3
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	8	24
Heart Disease	34	29
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	—
Bronchitis	3	2
Pneumonia	2	3
Other respiratory diseases	2	—
Ulcer of stomach duodenum	1	2
Nephritis	6	2
Premature Birth	2	1
Congenital malformations; Birth injuries	2	—
Suicide	1	1
Road traffic accidents	1	—
Other violent causes	—	1
All other causes	7	9
Total all causes	<hr/> 89	<hr/> 85

Deaths from Cancer (all sites) numbered 23. In the previous year there were 30.

Deaths from Heart Disease numbered 63, compared with 61 in 1948.

Deaths from Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions were 32; there were 26 in 1948.

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(1) Public Health Officers in the Tarvin Rural District.

Medical Officer of Health.

W. J. Birchall, M.B., Ch.B. (Hons.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (London), D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Rodent Officer.

G. T. Woods, M.R.SAN.I., M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A. Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I. and S.I.E. Jt. Bd. Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute; Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works, Royal Sanitary Institute; Examination of Institution of Sanitary Engineers; Home Office C.D. Instructor's Certificate.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors.

D. E. Tucker, M.R.SAN.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A. Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I. and S.I.E. Jt. Bd.; Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute; Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works, Royal Sanitary Institute; Examination of the Institution of Sanitary Engineers.

To October 31st, 1949.

H. Longworth, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I., Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I. and S.I.E. Jt. Bd.; Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

From December 1st, 1949.

G. P. Walpole, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I. and S.I.E. Jt. Bd.; Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Pupil Sanitary Inspector.

G. P. Davies.

Clerk-Typist.

Mrs. H. Howell.

Junior Clerk.

Miss Dorothy Hughes.

Rodent Operative.

Mr. E. H. Blackburn.

(2) Medical Services.**(a) Laboratory Facilities.**

The services of the Public Health Laboratory Service, Birkenhead, and of Harold Lowe, Esq., MSc., F.I.C., Assay Office respectively, are utilised for bacteriological and chemical examination.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

Cases of infectious disease are removed to Clatterbridge Isolation Hospital, Clatterbridge. Cases of sickness are removed to the Chester Royal Infirmary or the General Hospital, Clatterbridge, by the ambulances of the Cheshire County Council, supplemented by the Chester City Ambulances as an Agency Service.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

There are District Nurses engaged in all the larger villages for attendance on the sick.

The trained Health Visitors of the County Council also visit the homes in the District for the purposes of advice, inspection and assistance under the maternity, child-welfare and tuberculosis schemes.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics, including clinics solely for the area are as follows:—

Farndon, Tattenhall, Tarvin, Kelsall and Malpas—Infant Welfare.

Hoole—Ante and Post-Natal, Infant Welfare, Orthopaedic, Dental and Speech Therapy.

Chester—Orthopaedic and Tuberculosis.

Northwich—Scabies Treatment.

(e) Hospitals.

The General Hospital at Clatterbridge is available for residents in the area.

There are, in addition, smaller Cottage Hospitals in the neighbourhood, which receive patients from the area, viz:—Tarpoley and Whitechurch.

Larger hospitals are also available in Chester and Liverpool; for example, the Chester Royal Infirmary, Chester City Hospital, etc.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**(1) Water.**

Piped supplies of water are available in the following Parishes of the District:—

Parishes.	Supply.
1. Ashton, Mouldsworth and Horton-eum-Peel.	Tarvin R.D.C.'s own source from Springs.
2. Kelsall, Tarvin, Pryors Hayes, part of Bruen Stapleford, most of Duddon and Hoekenhull.	Tarvin R.D.C. bulk supply from Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board (Eddisbury Borehole.)
3. Iddenshall and Clotton Hoo-field.	Tarvin R.D.C. bulk supply from Liverpool Corporation Vyrnwy Aqueduct per Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board's mains.
4. Tiverton, Tilstone Fearnall and Beeston.	Tarvin R.D.C. bulk supply from Liverpool Corporation.
5. Tattenhall, Huxley and part of Newton-by-Tattenhall, part of Golborne Bellow and part of Hatton.	do.
6. Hampton, part of Edge, and Macefen.	do.
7. Malpas, Cuddington, part of Chorlton and part of Wy-chough.	Liverpool Corporation.
8. Part of Chorlton.	Private Estate Supply, borehole and small Reservoir, Chorlton Hall.
9. Farndon, Churton-by-Farndon, Churton-by-Aldford and Edgerly.	Wrexham and East Denbighshire Water Company.
10. Part of Edge.	Private Estate Supply, Edge Hall.
11. Waverton.	Egg Bridge Area — Chester Waterworks Company, Remainder Eaton Estate.

12. Cotton Edmunds.	Eaton Estate.
13. Willington.	Willington Estate.
14. Aldersey and Coddington.	Aldersey Estate.
15. Barton, Stretton & Carden.	Carden Estate.
16. Harthill.	Bolesworth Estate, from Tarvin R.D.C. Mains.
17. Bickley.	Tarvin R.D.C. from Liverpool Corporation, Vyrnwy Aqueduct per Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board's Mains.
18. Broxton.	do.
19. Burwardsley.	do.
20. Shocklach (Part)	Tarvin R.D.C. borehole and elevated tank.
21. Tilston (Part)	do.
22. Tushingham (Part)	Liverpool Corporation.

The water supplied by the Liverpool Corporation is from The Lake Vyrnwy Aqueduct and has a total hardness of 1.2 parts per 100,000 and a pH value of 6.45.

The water supplied by the Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board is from the Eddisbury borehole and has an average hardness of 16 parts per 100,000, and a pH value of 7.5.

The water supplied by the Wrexham and East Denbighshire Water Company is obtained from (a) Moorland gathering grounds (b) mountain adits and (c) boreholes. The average total hardness is about 8 parts per 100,000, with pH value of 7.3.

The water supplied by the Chester Waterworks Company is derived from the The River Dee, and has a total hardness of 7 parts per 100,000, and a pH value of 7.27.

Extensions to the existing mains are being planned and carried out as fast as the supply of materials and labour conditions permit; priority is being given where the need is greatest, and bearing in mind the recommendations of the Cheshire Agricultural Executive Committee in respect of agricultural demands, Schemes to extend the mains supply to Milton Green and Handley; Malpas (Castle Hill Reservoir) to the Lodge, Malpas; and a draft scheme for the whole of the southern parishes of the District have been

submitted to the Ministry of Health during the year. Approval has been received for the first section of the northern area water scheme and the materials are now on order. Similarly approval has been received for the Oldcastle—Threapwood scheme, and this was commenced in October.

Schemes to extend the mains supply in the near future to Tilston. Leadgate Farm, Clotton Hoofield; Top Farm. Bradley; Gatesheath—Tattenhall (The Rookery): Agden—Wigland; parts of Kelsall; are all to be prepared for submission during 1950.

During the year, a further $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of water main were laid in the District by the Council who now administer approximately 76 miles of main. The new mains are as follows:—

Parish.	Yards.
Broxton	180
Duddon	200
Macefen—Tushingham	750
Kelsall	135
Threapwood (Part)	2000
Chorlton—Cuddington	1000
Larkton	310
Malpas	1870
Tattenhall	330
Tiverton	98

The following fresh connections to the main were made during the year:—

Parish.	Domestic	Trade	Total
Beeston	—	1	1
Bickley and Macefen	8	3	11
Broxton	4	2	6
Burwardsley	—	4	4
Clotton, Duddon, Iddenshall	3	4	7
Chorlton—Cuddington	11	14	25
Hampton	5	3	8
Huxley	—	3	3
Kelsall	2	2	4
Malpas	24	2	26
Mouldsworth	7	1	8
Shocklach	6	1	7
Tarvin	—	1	1
Tattenhall	19	5	24
Tilstone Fearnall	—	1	1
Tushingham	2	4	6
Wychough	—	2	2
	<hr/> 91	<hr/> 53	<hr/> 144

Particulars of the number of premises supplied by the Council's mains at December 1949 are as follows:—

Parish.	Domestic	Trade	Total
Ashton	108	5	113
Beeston	47	24	71
Bickley	76	51	127
Broxton	98	39	137
Burwardsley	50	43	93
Chorlton—Cuddington	13	15	28
Chowley	4	—	4
Clotton Hoofield, Duddon and Iddenshall	35	16	51
Edge (Part)	17	—	17
Golborn Bellow	8	1	9
Hampton	63	38	101
Horton-cum-Peel	7	—	7
Huxley	22	13	35
Kelsall	243	30	273
Larkton ..	4	1	5
Malpas	320	52	372
Mouldsworth	60	10	70
Macefen	13	3	16
Newton-by-Tattenhall	12	8	20
Shocklach	11	1	12
Tarvin, Stapleford, Pryors Hayes and Hockenhull	359	70	429
Tattenhall	188	54	242
Tilston	8	—	8
Tilstone Fearnall	21	6	27
Tiverton	108	35	143
Tushingham	2	4	6
Wychough	—	2	2
	<hr/> 1897	<hr/> 519	<hr/> 2416

Number of Standpipes supplied from the mains:—

Parish.	No. Consumers.	
Edge	1	35
Beeston	1	19
Hampton	3	20
Newton-by-Tattenhall	1	15
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 89

Number of premises supplied by other Public Water Undertakings (excluding Private Supplies) for which figures are available as follows:—

Parish.	Domestic	Trade	Total	Undertaking.
Waverton	75	8	83	Chester Waterworks Company.
Edgerley	1	—	1	
Churton-by-Aldford	50	2	52	Wrexham and East Denbighshire Water Company.
Farndon	151	4	155	
Churton-by-Farndon	27	—	27	
	<hr/> 304	<hr/> 14	<hr/> 318	

Estimated population supplied.—

By Tarvin R.D.C.,.....	7950
By Chester Waterworks	354
By Wrexham and East Denbighshire Water Company	920
	<hr/> 9224

This represents approximately 64 per cent of the total population of the district supplied by mains water. A number of consumers however, are supplied by Estate Supplies, Private Systems, and boreholes, etc. The actual percentage of water consumers with supplies laid on is considerably in excess of this figure.

A total of one hundred and sixty eight samples was taken during the year, nearly three times as many as in the previous year.

This increased figure represents the first whole year of the use of analysis facilities provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Birkenhead without charge. Samples are regularly collected twice each week from Tarvin R.D.C. Offices which act as the central collection depot for Chester, Wrexham and other adjoining district councils.

The classification of results of water analyses is made as suggested in the Ministry of Health's Report on "The Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies"—based on the Presumptive Coli count taken in conjunction with the type of supply.

Until the latter part of the year plate count 3 days at 22° C. and 2 days at 37° C. were taken, but in conformity with the new practice of laboratory investigation these have now been dispensed with except in cases of cafe washing up waters and special purpose investigations.

Waters are graded as follows:—

	Presumptive Coli per 100 ml.
Class 1. Highly Satisfactory	Less than 1
2. Satisfactory	1-2
3. Suspicious	3-10
4. Unsatisfactory	Over 10

Untreated Waters.

Class A. Satisfactory	Under 10
B. Fairly Satisfactory	10-25
C. Suspicious	25-50
D. Unsatisfactory	50-75
E. Very Unsatisfactory	Over 75

During the year regular samples were taken from every main supply of the Statutory Undertakers; and in addition to routine checks on isolated supplies the following village areas were systematically sampled:—

- (c) Crewe-by-Farndon.
- (d) Newton-by-Tattenhall and Tattenhall.
- (b) Wigland and Agden.
- (a) Handley and Golborne David.

All the areas without a mains supply were covered and in any case of adverse results, full reports have been given to your Works and Planning Committee for their consideration of main extensions.

Results of Analyses.

23 samples were taken from supplies of statutory undertakers.

- 19 were Highly Satisfactory or Class I.
- 2 were Fairly Satisfactory or Class II.
- 1 was Suspicious or Class III.
- 1 was Unsatisfactory or Class IV.

The 2 unsatisfactory samples were taken from a supply on a recently extended length of main. Flushing out of this main resulted in repeat samples proving Class I.

On the untreated waters taken from isolated supplies, 33 were not satisfactory on analysis. These were taken from the following areas.

(a) Crewe-by-Farndon area.

One unsatisfactory sample from a shallow well was taken in this parish.

Consumers were advised to boil all water used for drinking and for the preparation of food.

Your Works and Planning Committee decided that this area is to be scheduled for a piped supply from the Tilston main when laid; it will be extended through the parishes of Stretton, Grafton, Caldecott to Crewe-by-Farndon.

(b) Newton-by-Tattenhall and Tattenhall area.

Five unsatisfactory samples were taken from shallow wells, and consumers were advised to boil water for drinking and preparation of food.

Your Works and Planning Committee decided that a tentative scheme to supply this area from the mains should be prepared.

(c) Wigland and Agden area.

Nine unsatisfactory samples, all from shallow wells. Consumers were advised to boil these waters.

A draft scheme has been prepared and submitted to the Minister.

(d) Handley and Colborne David area.

Sixteen unsatisfactory samples from shallow wells.

Consumers were advised to boil water used for diatetic purposes. The scheme for a main supply has been prepared and approved and materials are on order for same.

The remaining two unsatisfactory samples were taken at the close of the year from Coddington and Waverton. The consumers were advised to boil this water and the respective owners have been informally requested to provide a wholesome supply of water to their properties, as the main is available in both cases. The necessary instructions have been given by the landlords and these premises will be supplied from the mains very shortly.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

As mentioned in last years report the scheme for the main sewerage of Farndon is complete and a Ministry Enquiry was held during the year. A decision from the Minister is now awaited at the time of the preparation of this Report before work can be commenced.

I am glad to record that your Works Committee have decided that the time has come when active steps should be taken

regarding the main sewerage of Kelsall, and instructions have been given for a draft scheme to be prepared. This will be of great assistance to the Public Health Department in connection with the drainage of new buildings; as the proposed line of sewer when prepared will assist in the examination and approval of drainage plans for Kelsall.

During the year the smaller schemes for the sewerage of Nomansheath and Edge were completed and they are now in operation. The first is necessary to enable improvements to be made to the Nomansheath Council houses, particularly in connection with the conversion of pail closets to water carriage.

As circumstances permit the whole of the Nomansheath village should be taken into the scheme as there is a definite nuisance of long standing from the discharge from the village premises of sullage and effluents to a private ditch in the neighbourhood.

A scheme for the main sewerage of Tilston has been prepared and it is intended to carry out this work in three stages. The first stage of course gives priority to the provision of a water carriage system to the new Council houses to enable conversions to be made.

Schemes which have been prepared and approved by the Council and submitted to the Ministry of Health for sanction to carry out the works are:—

Coddington	42 persons—Beachin Lane.
Duddon	200 „
Farndon	650 „
Gatesheath	85 „
Tattenhall	50 „
Tarvin (Hoekenhull Avenue Estate)	175 „
Tilston	500 „
Waverton	Whole village.

A Public Inquiry was held into the Farndon Scheme on the 13th September, 1949 by an Inspector of the Ministry of Health and provisional approval was given to the scheme on the 17th October, 1949. Sanction to carry out the work has not yet been received.

An Inspector of the Ministry of Health held an Inquiry into the Gatesheath Scheme on the 13th December, 1949.

It is obvious that the provision of water mains giving an unlimited supply to premises previously supplied from a well

with limited resources aggravates and extends nuisances resulting from unsatisfactory drainage. The increasing number of water closets, sinks and baths that are being installed by owners and occupiers, consequent on mains water becoming available where restricted supplies existed previously, gives rise to concern as to the disposal of foul drainage, especially in built up areas.

With regard to drainage proposals in connection with new buildings, there is close co-operation between the Surveyor's and the Public Health Departments. Plans of new buildings and extensions to existing buildings deposited with the Council's Surveyor are sent to the Public Health Department for examination and approval to the drainage disposal arrangements. It is quite common for plans of a dwelling to be deposited showing lines of drainage ending in an arrow marked "To septic tank and filter", when investigation on the site shows that there is insufficient fall for a filter and often no satisfactory means provided for disposal of the effluent.

This emphasis on the efficiency of any proposed treatment works to isolated premises will bring good results in preventing excessive pollution of ditches and water courses which has been so common in past years.

The calls on the services of your Sanitary Officers for advice in the construction and layout treatment works to such isolated buildings is increasing. In addition to their academic qualifications they have the advantage of being in everyday contact with small disposal schemes under varying conditions, and they test and observe the comparative efficiency of different types of works.

Education in hygiene and cleanliness has given rise to a general demand for modern sanitary fittings and appliances, and the Public Health Department is anxious to encourage better conditions throughout the district wherever possible, to improve sanitary environment and to lessen the risk of nuisance from drainage effluents.

(3) Rivers and Streams.

As mentioned under the last heading the proposed sewerage scheme for the village of Farndon is the only cure for the serious pollution of the River Dee at this point. Nothing less than a main sewer and sewerage treatment works can adequately deal with this matter.

The W.P.R. field testing equipment for drainage effluents used by the department is invaluable. This simple test, which depends on the observation of the extent of the bleaching of colour

from an acidified permanganate solution after contact with a sample of effluent for 30 minutes, gives an indication as to the Oxygen Absorption Demand of the effluent which is a measure of pollution load. While it is not intended to replace the usual standard chemical examination it is useful for routine tests of samples. With this outfit, samples of effluents from the Council's sewage works, private treatment plants, and discharges from factories are taken from time to time for test; and these records play an important part in limiting and curing instances of pollution of rivers and streams.

The regular refuse collection throughout the district has practically eliminated the habit of dumping unwanted refuse on the banks of and into watercourses, but an isolated instance of refuse dumping in a water course at Kelsall was brought to the notice of the department at the close of the year, and steps have been taken to have this remedied.

(4) General Sanitation.

(i) Closet Accommodation.

New dwelling houses erected during the year by private enterprise and the Council have all been supplied with water closets. While the Rural Housing Survey was in progress the opportunity was taken by your Sanitary Officers to educate owners and the public to the desirability of converting privy middens to either pail closets or water closets,

During the year one privy midden was converted to a pail closet and a further twelve pail closets were converted to water carriage. Eighty eight new W.C's. were also installed. In addition the following conversions of Council houses from pails to W.C's. was carried out, eight at Keyesbrook, eight at West View, Tattenhall, one at Shocklach and 10 at Farndon. A total of 27,

The approximate figures for the whole district at the end of 1949 were:—

Privy Middens	539
Pail Closets	1899
Water Closets	1999
	<hr/>
	4437
	<hr/>

Refuse and Salvage.

The whole district is served by a refuse disposal service which makes regular fortnightly collections.

The Council's own workmen and vehicles are employed on this important sanitary service under the direction of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Two Austin 7 cubic yard and one Dennis 10 cubic yard wagons, all of the side loading type, are used.

The service operates from a central depot at Tattenhall which as mentioned in my previous report is tolerated as a temporary measure, being without adequate facilities for the employees or the proper servicing of the wagons; but it is very difficult at present to find alternative accommodation. The time will come however when proper sanitary arrangements and garaging and servicing equipment will be a matter of urgency; and in this connection the provision of a central depot for the garaging and skilled servicing of all the Council's vehicles might be considered in the light of repair and maintenance costs contracted with outside firms.

The provision of proper dustbins is a basic essential for the economical operation of a refuse disposal service, and during the year many more dustbins have been supplied by private owners in place of unsuitable containers such as churns and dolly tubs. In addition the Council have supplied from stocks held at their depots, 69 bins to private owners and 77 to Council houses, a total of 146.

Disposal is by controlled tipping and the Council are fortunate in having no difficulty at present in obtaining suitable sites. Some agricultural pits have been filled and at the close of the year there were tips in use at Clotton, Waverton, Chowley, Barton and Malpas. New sites are under negotiation at Bickley and Golborne. In only two cases do the Council pay a small rent for use of the sites; elsewhere facilities are free.

In addition to avoiding the costs of expensive plant for destruction by incineration the disposal by controlled tipping is helping to reclaim valuable land in the district, which has been disused and unproductive but which will on completion, enable several derelict acres to be usefully employed again in food production.

Salvage.

Until the middle of 1949, this Council's contribution to the salvage drive had been outstanding in its results. For ten years that salvage had been collected by the Council, financial assistance to the rate fund has been provided as well as support for the country's economic needs. The following table shows the value of salvage sold since the collection of salvage was undertaken.

	£
1940-1	295
1941-2	427
1942-3 (Book Drive)	1045
1943-4	777
1944-5	773
1945-6	532
1946-7	521
1947-8	668
1948-9	724
1949-50	302

A total sum of £6,064 has gone to relief of the rates during this period,

During the early months of 1949 the market for salvage began to sag and prices for all materials collapsed. Baled waste paper accumulated at the Council's Depot and in common with other local authorities the question had to be faced of continuing to collect salvage on an uneconomic basis merely to be stored indefinitely or buried on the tips.

In June, the Board of Trade recognised these difficulties by withdrawing the Direction under Defence Regulation 54B, which required all local authorities to collect salvage.

The changed circumstances in salvage disposal coincided with growing demands on the refuse collection service, which if full salvage collection was to be continued would have necessitated the employment of more men and the purchase of a further refuse wagon.

Your Public Health Committee decided after consideration of the circumstances to avoid the expense of such a step at present, by restricting the salvage collected, to clean newspapers, books and magazines and this decision was publicised in the press to the residents of the district.

Although receipts from salvage will consequently be greatly reduced for the future, the figures must be considered in relation to the savings effected on extra personnel and plant which would have been required if full collection had continued.

Details of each class of salvaged materials sold for the financial year ending March 31st, 1950, compared with the previous twelve months are as follows:—

	1949-50.	Previous Year.
Waste Paper	227 5 6	615 1 1
Scrap Metal	11 10 0	15 6 3
Bottles and Jars	—	19 6
Rags and Sacking	60 6 9	86 2 9
Bones	3 7 7	6 13 9
	<hr/> £302 9 10	<hr/> £724 3 4

The nett cost of the Refuse and Salvage Service during the year ending March 31st, 1950, was £3,356.

This is equivalent to a 11½d. rate.

Unit Costs.

Nett Cost per ton of refuse collected ..	£1/0/5 per ton.
Nett Cost per 1,000 premises served ...	£778 per annum.
Nett Cost per 1,000 of population	£19/1/7 per month.
Nett Cost per head of population	4½d. per month.

These costs compare favourably with those of similar rural districts which operate regular collections over their whole area.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following list gives an indication of a part of the activities of your Sanitary Inspectors during 1949, where not dealt with elsewhere in this report.

Informal Notices served re housing defects	36
" " " " unsatisfactory water supply	21
" " " " defective drainage	18
" " " " dirty conditions	3
" " " " provisions of dustbins	15
" " " " insanitary closets	6
" " " " foul ditches	2
" " " " contravention of Milk & Dairies Order, 1926	15
" " " " leaking gutters and downspouts	6
" " " " offensive accumulations	8
" " " " Food & Drugs Act, 1938	4
" " " " rat infestations	2
" " " " defects in factories	2
" " " " Petroleum Spirit stores	6

No. of written complaints received from the public	215
No. of inspection made (all purposes)	3287

(iv) Shops.

No action relating to ventilation, lighting, temperature and sanitary accommodation under the Shops Act, 1934, has been found necessary during the year.

(v) Factories.

One hundred and three factories are on the register. These include 22 non-power and 87 power. Following inspections, written notice was served on the occupiers in two cases relating to lime washing and sanitary conveniences. In one case the notice has been complied with and in the other case formal action has been deferred pending settlement of the estate following the death of the owner.

Outworkers.

There were two outworkers on the register during 1949, and inspection of their premises showed satisfactory conditions for home making up of textiles.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

<i>Premises.</i>	<i>Number on Register.</i>	<i>Number of Inspections.</i>	<i>Notices served.</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	22	30	2
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	65	80	—
(iii) Roadwork and Building Sites	16	32	—
Total ...	103	142	2

Camping Sites.

The past policy of the Council has been continued, pending new and effective legislation, to refrain from issuing licences under the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of both sites or individual moveable dwellings. The camping site at Weetwood continues to grow, but consultations are to take place with the County Council and the Ministries concerned as to the best action to be taken to check the continued development of this site. It is probable that the use of the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, will be more effective in this case and particularly in the removal of undesirable shacks and erections which are reported

from time to time. On the site at Farndon the number of dwellings has not appreciably increased, and no complaints as to nuisance have been received.

The Council have taken action to secure the removal of unauthorised bus bodies etc., brought into the district, which occurs undoubtedly as a result of the acute housing shortage. While the Tarvin Rural District must be protected from the point of view of Public Health and its amenities against the indiscriminate stationing with out permission, of bus bodies and shacks in the centre of beauty spots, it must also be recognised that the practice of genuine short term holiday camping as distinct from permanent camping is increasing in this country. The beauty of our rural district is an inducement to city people to spend a few days in rural parts. Well behaved campers should not be discouraged or victimised because of the untidy and dirty habits of the few undesirables who dump any kind of vehicle on any vacant spot without regard to elementary hygiene, and who try to take up permanent residence, with all the resulting problems to the Public Health and Planning Departments.

(vii) Squatters.

The old army camp at Beeston, which consists of four wooden huts and one nissen hut used as a wash-house, is still occupied by four families (8 adults, 9 children). Each hut is fitted with one or two slow combustion stoves, and is provided with a separate pail closet chamber, and a separate dustbin. There is a mains water supply to a standpipe on the site, and an extension to a tap in the wash-house. Refuse collection is carried out fortnightly. This accommodation is substandard and can be tolerated only as a temporary measure until the housing situation is improved.

(viii) Swimming Baths.

There are no public swimming baths in the District.

(ix) Smoke Abatement.

Observations were carried out from time to time on various commercial chimneys but no grounds for action were reported.

(x) Eradication of Insect Vermin.

Where premises are found infested with bed bugs, treatment with Zaldicide/D.D.T. spray is used and found effective.

Gammexane powder is issued free to tenants whose dwellings show evidence of cockroaches.

Wettable D.D.T. to mix with limewash is sold at cost as required to the occupiers of slaughterhouses and similar premises in the District, to minimise the fly nuisance in the hot weather.

No action relating to flea or bug infestation was found necessary during the year.

(xi) Rats and Mice Destruction.

The Council in the operation of full delegated powers from the County Council under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, operate the Rodent Control service which is directed by the Chief Sanitary Inspector as Rodent Officer. The 1919 Act lapses in March, 1950, and the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, comes into operation. This new Act will place the responsibility for Rodent Control directly on to district councils, who must provide the necessary personnel to administer the Act. Present arrangements as approved by the Ministry will continue and will carry into effect the requirements of the new Act.

A full time Rodent Operative is employed by the Council. The part time services of a further man are utilised on the work to assist in larger treatments and to keep the detailed records required by the Ministry. Occupiers of business premises are required to pay for treatment of their premises. Private houses are treated at a nominal charge, and the Council's sewer systems, sewerage treatment works, controlled tips and other properties are regularly inspected and disinfested as found necessary.

The Ministry's recommended methods are used. All your Sanitary Officers, the Rodent Operative and others employed in the service have attended one or more official courses of instruction on Rodent Control given by the Ministry.

It is estimated that the rat population in the premises treated by the Council was reduced during the year by over four thousand.

General satisfaction is expressed by the users of the Council's service which enables skilled treatment to be available to all ratopayers at a moderate expense.

(xii) Knackers' Yards.

A Licence in respect of a knacker's yard at Malpas was renewed. These premises have been operated during the year without complaint.

(5) Schools.

There is a piped water supply at Ashton, Beeston, Burwardsley, Farndon, Harthill, Huxley, Kelsall, Malpas, Tarvin, Tattenhall, Tilstone Fearnall and Duddon schools.

Edge, Handley, Hargrave, Shocklach, Threapwood and Tilston schools are without a piped water supply, but the main

is being extended to Handley, Tushingham and Shocklach and these schools should be connected shortly.

The provision of mains water to a school previously without a piped supply raises the question of improved sanitary conveniences, as it is important in the education of children in hygiene, that modern wash down pedestal closets and adequate washing facilities should be available.

As schools are connected to the mains water the conversion of the conservancy closets to water carriage and the provision of sufficient washing basins should be considered as urgent matters by the Education Authorities concerned.

It is clearly impossible to educate children in the fundamentals of cleanliness and hygiene if the school itself is without proper sanitary facilities.

The provision of school meals makes the supply of ample hot and cold water, and adequate washing facilities, an urgent necessity; not only for washing up purposes, but to enable both school teachers and pupils to observe strict personal cleanliness before partaking of meals.

Section D.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—

(i) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	882
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	912
(ii) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above) inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations (Rural Housing Survey)	231
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	236
(iii)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(iv)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	42

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered reasonably fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	39
--	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of formal notices	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

Number of premises on which Demolition Orders were made	3
Number of premises on which undertakings were offered by owners	Nil
Number of premises on which undertakings were accepted by the Council	Nil

(c) Public Health Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
Outstanding at end of 1947	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	6
By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
Outstanding at end of 1948	Nil

The year has shown a further increase in the amount of repair and reconstruction work carried out by private owners, no doubt due to the easing of the supply position relative to building materials.

The need for houses in the Tarvin Rural District seems to be increasing, despite the house building carried out by the Council and private enterprise; this is shown by the growing number of applicants for Council houses who are classified as urgent cases on the register.

There is no doubt that it is a common occurrence today for young couples to get married and continue to live with their relatives until such time as they can get a house to themselves. This custom however, is leading to some very undesirable and

congested conditions in homes, and conditions which are not conducive to happiness for either the couple or their parents, and many tragic cases are brought to the notice of the department where disagreements in the household create a mental unrest in young couples during the early years of married life. The choice before them is to continue to live under conditions of nervous stress, or to hunt for those elusive lodgings where they can at least be on their own, away from relatives.

I am glad to record that the Council are giving priority in tenancies to a certain number of newly married couples in each batch of houses that are allocated; and although this practice gives rise to some discontent on the part of older residents who are also applicants for a Council house because of their poor housing conditions, such a policy is to be commended.

All these facts lead to one conclusion, namely, more houses must be built as early as possible to relieve the situation.

The progress in rehousing is shown by the following tables which give the number of new Council houses *tenanted* in each year in the various parishes.

Houses Tenanted between Jan. 1st—Dec. 31st.

	1946	1947	1948	1949
Nomansheath, Bickley ...	—	6	—	—
Broxton	—	—	—	4
Coddington	—	—	—	1
Duddon	—	8	—	—
Edge	—	—	—	8
Farndon	—	3	21	—
Kelsall	—	8	—	—
Malpas	—	—	11	27
Oscroft	—	—	4	2
Shocklach	—	—	4	—
Tarvin	—	4	—	—
Tattenhall (Edgecroft)	1*	1*	—	4
Tattenhall (Keysbrook) ...	—	16	—	3
Tilston	—	—	8	—
	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 46	<hr/> 48	<hr/> 49

This table is compiled from the actual dates from which rents commenced.

*Conversion of large house to two dwellings.

Regulation 68A.

Housing conditions in the district are still such as to warrant the renewal of licences issued under Regulation 68A of the Defence Regulations to permit occupation of condemned cottages which are maintained up to a minimum standard of fitness. Three such licences were renewed during the year in respect of premises on which Demolition Orders are operative.

Housing Act, 1949.

This new Act came into operation during the year, and among other important matters, removed the limitation of many provisions of the main Act of 1936 relating to houses occupied by or suitable for occupation by persons of the working classes. Action under most sections of the main Act can now be taken in respect of any type of house used for habitation.

The provision of the new Act relating to the making of grants within limits to private owners for reconditioning of suitable premises, does seem to place Rural District Councils under a handicap as compared with Urban housing authorities.

The maximum grant is the same for all types of districts, as also quite rightly, is the Standard of Fitness laid down by the Minister. Three important items in the Standard in which no relaxation can be considered, is the provision of (1) a piped water supply inside the house, (2) a fixed bath and sink and an internal or readily accessible water closet, and (3) a proper drainage system.

These requirements visualise an existing water main and a sewer near the premises, conditions more the exception than the rule in most rural districts, outside larger villages. Consequently a great part of the maximum grants for reconditioning will be taken up in the items for the provision of a piped water supply, drainage, and a sewage treatment and disposal works; quite apart from any structural alterations required. Consequently a house in a rural area with no main services, but equally desirable for reconditioning as a similar house in an urban area where services exist, may be outside the scope of grant aid on cost grounds alone. It thus certainly appears that rural districts will be restricted in private reconditioning under the new Act, and only time can show if the grant section is likely to be used as often as desirable.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

On October 1st the responsibility for the registration and supervision of dairy farms was transferred to the Ministry of

Agriculture and Fisheries and a list of over 800 cowkeepers in Tarvin Rural District was supplied to the Milk Registration Officer at Crewe.

At the same time the responsibility for pasteurising plants was transferred to the County Council, who now issue licences for such premises previously licensed by the District Council. Supplementary licences are still issued by the Tarvin Rural District Council.

All dairymen in the district were circularised and those carrying on retail distribution were reminded of their obligation to register.

Number of Milk Distributors Registered	11
Number of Supplementary Licences Issued	17

No adverse reports were received on samples of milk taken in the Tarvin Rural District during the year. This is a remarkable tribute to the high standard to which the majority of producers have raised their production methods, especially in view of the large number of dairymen in this District.

Meat Inspection.

Government control of slaughtering continued during the year, and the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse at Newton Lodge, Newton-by-Tattenhall, continued in operation, serving an area roughly conforming to the Tarvin Rural District, together with the township of Tarporley in the Northwich Rural District.

Slaughterhouse licences were renewed in two instances, being in respect of premises where casualties are dealt with exclusively, the carcasses and edible offals being delivered to the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse after inspection at the place of slaughter.

The Council have been careful in making appointments to see that their Sanitary Inspectors are properly qualified and experienced in the inspection of meat; and the centralisation of slaughtering and practical elimination of private slaughterhouses permits of a hundred per cent inspection of meat intended for human consumption.

It is desirable that this centralisation of slaughtering should be made permanent and that the many small and mostly unsuitable places in the district where regular slaughtering was carried out pre-war should not be re-licensed unless the Council are satisfied (a) that there is urgent need for a slaughterhouse and the central

slaughterhouse is inconvenient, and (b) that the premises satisfy the high standard of structure, lairage, water supply, drainage, and drainage disposal necessary.

From time to time your Inspectors have received requests to examine cottagers' pigs which have been sent in for slaughter, and intended for consumption by the owner and family.

Under present legislation, as these carcasses are not intended for sale for human consumption, your food inspectors have no legal right to examine or condemn unfit carcasses, but it is evident from the increasing number of requests for examination that owners appreciate the dangers which might arise from the consumption of diseased meat. In only two such cases were the carcasses so diseased as to warrant complete condemnation, and I am glad to record that in both cases the owners accepted the advice of the inspector, and permitted the carcase and organs to be condemned. In such cases of course, the owners are entitled to reclaim any bacon coupons surrendered to the Food Office on production of the Food Inspector's certificate of condemnation.

It seems strange that present legislation lays down heavy penalties to prevent sales for human consumption of any diseased food, and yet does not safeguard the family or guests of a person who might consume diseased pork in ignorance or otherwise, from a pig reared by that person, but not offered for sale.

As previously reported the Ministry of Food have been pressed for some years to remedy the undesirable conditions at the Ministry's Slaughterhouse at Newton-by-Tattenhall. Considerable activity has been evident in connection with visits of officials to view the premises, and discuss alterations.

At the end of the year, plans were deposited with the Council on behalf of the Ministry of Food showing proposals to install a large new sewage treatment works at the slaughterhouse. It was pointed out to the Ministry that while the proposals were excellent in themselves, it was considered that the most pressing and urgent matters in regard to the improvement of the premises were the provision of more adequate hanging space and cooling space for the carcasses, an improved gut house, and better washing and closet accommodation. The present drainage arrangements, while capable of being improved, have functioned for many years without nuisance, and in these days of restriction on capital works, first and urgent matters should come first.

Up to the time of the preparation of this Report (May 1950) no work in relation to any of the improvements requested has been started.

Animal Health Division.

Close co-operation with veterinary officers of the Ministry of Agriculture has been maintained. Several cases of congenital tuberculosis found in calves have been reported to the Animal Health Division, resulting in most cases in recognition of tuberculosis in the dams, which have then been removed from their herds and slaughtered under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

Details of animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Council's area during the year under review, with particulars of each class of animal found to be unfit for human consumption, are shown in the following table in the form suggested by the Ministry of Health.

<i>Year 1949.</i>	<i>Beasts.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Numbers killed	554	1181	161	3453	164	5513
Numbers inspected ..	554	1181	161	3453	164	5513

All Diseases except Tuberculosis.

Whole Carcases						
Condemned ...	42	137	34	4	5	222
Part Carcases						
Condemned ...	256	470	24	160	58	968
Percentage affected ..	53.8%	51.4%	36%	4.7%	38.4%	

Tuberculosis only.

Whole Carcases						
Condemned ...	13	140	9	—	1	163
Part Carcases						
Condemned ...	92	385	—	2	18	497
Percentage affected ..	18.8%	44.4%	5.6%	0.05%	11.5%	

The figures include SEVEN cows slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938; and 214 beasts, 835 cows, 160 calves, 35 sheep and 154 pigs dealt with as casualties. The high proportion of casualties may be explained partly by the fact that the District is predominantly pastoral and dairying, and therefore has a high animal population, and partly by the presence within the District of two exclusively Casualty Slaughterhouses.

The total weight of carcase meat and offals found by your Food Inspectors to be unfit for human consumption was 105 tons, 12 cwt., 1 qr., 8 lb.

Inspection of Other Foods.

The weight of canned meat and other foods at local shops and depots found to be unfit for human consumption was 1 cwt., 2 qrs., 5 lb.

Cysticercus Bovis.

Two cases of cysticercus bovis were discovered during the year, both being sited in the external masseter muscles of cows.

Enquiries as to the origin of the beasts proved that neither was bred in this county. Details were sent to the Ministry of Food in accordance with Circular MF 5/48.

ICE CREAM.

There were no manufacturers of ice-cream in this district in 1949. ELEVEN premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream which is obtained from manufacturers outside the district. The majority of these retailers' premises are registered for the sale of pre-wrapped ice cream. There are a few travelling retailers who sell in the district during the summer, and your Sanitary Officers keep a close watch on these for cleanliness and hygienic handling of the food. Samples are taken for analysis; and reports on conditions at the premises outside this area, where manufacture takes place, is received from the authorities concerned from time to time.

FOOD POISONING.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified in the district during the year.

FOOD ADULTERATION.

The following report of work under the adulteration provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, has been supplied by Mr. Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Cheshire County Council.

Name of Sample.	Number obtained.	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality.
Butter	1	—
Cheese	1	—
Cooking Fat	1	—
Coffee	1	—
Gelatine	1	—
Honey	1	—
Margarine	1	—
Meat Paste	1	—
Milk	15	3
Olive Oil	1	—
Pickled Onions	1	—
Pepper—White	1	—
Sauce	1	—
Sieved Apple with sugar (Tinned)	1	—
Sweets	1	—
	<hr/> 29 <hr/>	<hr/> 3 <hr/>

Section F.

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.**

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year
1949.

Disease	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	21	5	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric and Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	42	—	5
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—
Measles	26	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	3	2	—
Whooping Cough	30	—	—
Total	126	7	5

TUBERCULOSIS.**New Cases and Mortality during the year 1949.**

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
5-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
35-45	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown.	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals.	4	5	3	2	2	—	1	—

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Divisional Medical Officer on the Personal
Health Services of Ellesmere Port
Division for the Year 1949.

The Division includes—

ELLESMERE PORT U.D. HOOLE U.D.
CHESTER R.D. TARVIN R.D.

Estimated Population—70,241.

Introduction.

The year 1949 saw the establishment and development of the Personal Health Services under the various Sections which had been delegated to the Committee by the County Council, as Local Health Authority, on 5th July, 1948.

Some of these, e.g., Section 22, dealing with the care of Mothers and Young Children, were already well established, either directly under the County Council or under the autonomous local authorities who had administered them for a number of years prior to 1948.

Further development under this Section has been sought, by opening additional Welfare Centres, mainly in the Rural Areas, and reviewing the future requirements of the Urban Areas.

Home Nursing, and Vaccination and Immunisation, were established Services which have been transferred to the County Council. In the case of the former, the Committee, whilst not responsible for the work of the District Nurses, is concerned with their accommodation and transport. This also applies to Midwives and Health Visitors. The lady members of the Welfare Sub-Committee have been most helpful in several instances where accommodation, furnishings and transport of Nurses were involved.

Vaccination and Immunisation have continued as Services performed by General Practitioners, either individually on their own patients or in groups at Clinics.

Vaccination is now on a voluntary basis. Immunisation has always been voluntary, and now includes Whooping Cough as well as Diphtheria.

Enthusiasm on the part of General Practitioners for the performance of these Services has not been encouraged by the absence of rates of remuneration for the work being agreed between the British Medical Association and the Ministry of Health.

Ambulance Services have a greater scope under the new Health Scheme, as they include, in a free Service, car and rail transport. Their development has suffered the handicap of short supplies of new ambulances and cars. Most of the vehicles taken over by the County Council were old pre-war types which would have been replaced but for the war. This was the case in this Division, where two ancient and unreliable vehicles were called upon to do increased work.

These Services have endeavoured to cope with increasing demands under severe handicaps; and until sufficient new vehicles are available, the work will continue to operate under difficulty.

The Southern part of the Division is covered by an agreement with the Chester Corporation for the use of the City Ambulances. This arrangement has been most helpful. There has been a progressive demand during the year for transport, and the Sitting Case Car Service has been supplemented by the use of the W.V.S. Hospital Car Service and private car hire firms.

With the re-organisation of the Tuberculosis Services, a start was made on a detailed investigation of all patients on the Tuberculosis Register and any new cases that were notified. This considerable task has been undertaken with the help and co-operation of the County Health Visitors. Detailed information on the needs of these patients with regard to social conditions, housing, etc., was collected and passed on to the Tuberculosis Officer. Action was taken where overcrowding, housing needs, domestic help and nursing requisites required attention; and the ground was prepared for the early formation of an After-Care Committee.

Domestic Help was previously a Service operated mainly in Urban Districts by Maternity and Child Welfare Authorities, to provide the necessary help in confinement cases at the patient's home. This Service has now been expanded to include all cases of illness, and applications have steadily increased during the year. The Service is provided mainly from a Register of part-time workers, although two full-time Domestic Helps continue to

be employed in the Ellesmere Port Urban District. This Service appears to be a necessary and effective aid in those homes where illness or disability leaves nobody to carry on the essential domestic services of the household.

The Health Services available have been freely published in the press, and by notices at Clinics, Doctors' Surgeries, Post Offices, Public Libraries and Police Stations throughout the Division.

Individual notices relating to Vaccination and Immunisation have been sent to parents of new born babies.

Health Visitors, Midwives and District Nurses, and other officers have brought the Health Service to the notice of members of the public by their personal contacts in their work and otherwise.

It is felt that individual contacts produce better results than organised propaganda through the medium of leaflets and posters.

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

N.H.S. Act, 1946 (Section 22)—Care of Mothers and Young Children.

	New Cases.	Total Attendances.
A. Mother's Clinics,		
Ante-Natal	521	2815
Post-Natal	84	105
Dental :—		
Pre-Natal	18	42
Nursing Mothers	10	26
Dentures supplied	9	
B. Young Children's Clinics,	New Cases.	Total Attendances.
(1) Infant Welfare :—		
To 1 year	966	10724
1—5 years	213	3162
(2) Specialist :—		
Ophthalmic	32	88
Dental Treatment		
(Under 5)	22	31
E.N.T. (Under 5)	57	63
	Daily Average No.	Total Attendances.
(3) Day Nurseries :—		
Aged 0—2 years	15	3663
Aged 2—5 years	57	14231

Details of figures given below (where they relate to more than one Clinic) are shown hereunder:—

Eye Clinics.	New Cases,	Total Attendances.
Hoole	12	36
Ellesmere Port	20	52
	—	—
	32	88
	—	—
Number of children under five for whom spectacles were prescribed	11	
Number of cases recommended for hospital treatment	Nil	
Ante & Post-Natal Clinics.		
Hoole:—		
Ante-Natal	55	140
Post-Natal	45	61
Ellesmere Port:—		
Ante-Natal	466	2675
Post-Natal	39	44
	—	—
	605	2920
	—	—

Day Nurseries.	Daily Average No. Attending.	Total Attendances.
Ellesmere Port:—		
Aged 0—2 years	10	2472
Aged 2—5 years	30	7464
Little Sutton:—		
Aged 0—2 years	5	1191
Aged 2—5 years	27	6767

Welfare Centres,	New Cases.		Total Attendances.	
	0-1	1-5	0-1	1-5
Barrow (a)	26	9	127	118
Ellesmere Port . .	394	75	4594	922
Farndon (b)	34	29	160	141
Hoole	141	9	1409	329
Huntington	22	4	220	117
Kelsall	46	6	473	423
Little Sutton	104	7	1766	270
Malpas (c)	33	5	164	97
Saughall	31	7	399	151

	New Cases.		Total Attendances.	
Upton	81	13	1106	332
Tattenhall (d)	32	34	212	221
Tarvin (e)	22	15	94	41
Totals	966	213	10724	3162

(a) Opened 2.3.49.

(d) Opened 24.1.49

(b) Opened 18.1.49.

(e) Opened 24.8.49.

(c) Transferred 19.12.49.

Special Comments.

Welfare Centres.

New Child Welfare Centres have been opened during the year at Barrow, Tarvin, Farndon and Tattenhall, and a site has been selected by the Committee for the erection of a permanent new Welfare Centre at Little Sutton. The Malpas Welfare Centre was also transferred from the Jubilee Hall, Malpas, to the new Parish Hall.

On the 2nd May, 1949, Members of the Divisional Committee were given the opportunity of visiting Welfare Centres, Day Nurseries and other Divisional Establishments within the Division; and on the 12th July, the Welfare Sub-Committee visited the Sale Welfare Centre and Day Nursery.

The central heating system at the Ellesmere Port Welfare Centre has been repaired and overhauled. Instructions were given for a Store Room to be constructed in the Main Hall of the Centre, and also for necessary interior and exterior decorations to be carried out by the County Architect. As a result of certain complaints of offensive practices in the vicinity of the Welfare Centre, the County Architect was also requested to prepare a scheme for converting the pram shelter into a lock-up shed, and provide suitable gates and railings for the centre.

Day Nurseries.

Decorations and repairs recommended by the Divisional Committee in 1948 have not been carried out during the year, with consequent disappointment to both the Divisional Committee and the Staffs of the Nurseries.

As a result of several burglaries at the Ellesmere Port Day Nursery, various precautions were taken, such as bolts on the insides of all doors and iron bars across glass sky-lights, etc. No burglaries have taken place since the precautions were taken.

Various major items of equipment have been provided at both Nurseries, e.g., tubular steel chairs and tables, new curtains, toys, and so forth.

Owing to epidemics of Measles in one instance and Sonne Dysentery in another instance, it was necessary to close Ellesmere Port Day Nursery for two weeks in June and one week in November. As far as the Dysentery cases are concerned, there were 18 positive specimens taken from 15 children and 3 of the staff. Appropriate measures were taken to eradicate this infection, with results that appear to have been successful.

(SECTION 23)

MIDWIVES.

- A. Number of births—1,509 (Including 41 Stillbirths).
(Adjusted for inward and outward transfers).
- B. Accommodation and Maintenance—Nothing to Report.
- C. Transport—Nothing to report.

(SECTION 25)

HOME NURSING.

In several cases additional new furnishings and furniture were supplied, and repairs and decorations undertaken. Supervision of the transport of District Nurses and District Nurse Midwives resulted in the replacement of old vehicles and the supply of new vehicles where necessary. The several Lady Members of the Divisional Committee, who undertook to supervise the general welfare of the District Nurses and District Nurse Midwives in these matters, have greatly helped the Committee and Staff in the maintenance of the Service.

Loan of Nursing Requisites.

All the District Nurses possess common items of nursing equipment, which are available on loan to patients. The Divisional Health Committee considered and sanctioned the purchase of a more comprehensive list of nursing equipment, especially larger items such as wheel chairs, bed rests, bed tables, etc., but no purchase of larger items has yet been made. In most cases these may be obtained at present from the County Council Store.

Whereas charges were not made for loans of nursing equipment prior to the 5th July, 1948, charges for rental and/or deposit in respect of equipment are now made in each case.

(SECTION 26)

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

Vaccination against Smallpox and Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough continued during the year to

be performed by General Practitioners practising in the Division. Individual injections were given by Doctors to their own patients throughout the Division, and, in addition, at Ellesmere Port and Little Sutton, sessions were held at the Welfare Centres each month where local Doctors attended by rota, and inoculated groups of children, whose attendance had been secured by the active help of the Health Visitors. The general scheme suffered from the failure of agreed terms of remuneration to be made during the past year. Statistics are as follows :—

A. Vaccination.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
I. Primary Vaccination—			
(1) Pre-School Children	241	222	463
(2) School Children	8	3	11
(3) Adults	3	1	4
	252	226	478
II. Re-Vaccination—			
(1) Pre-School Children	2	7	9
(2) School Children	1	2	3
(3) Adults	7	18	25
	10	27	37

B. Diphtheria Immunisation.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Incomplete—			
(1) Pre-School Children	114	111	225
(2) School Children	5	8	13
	119	119	238
Completed—			
(1) Pre-School Children	401	356	757
(2) School Children	18	11	29
	419	367	786
Re-Immunisation—			
All Children	34	24	58

C. Other Immunisation (e.g. Whooping Cough).

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
(1) Pre-School Children	34	25	59
(2) School Children	9	5	14
	43	30	73

These figures are not final as records are still being received for services performed during 1949.

(SECTION 27)

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

	1	2	3	4	5
	No. of Vehicles	Total No. of Journeys	Total No. Patients Carried	No. of Accident and Emergency Journeys including in Column 3	Total Mileage
A. Directly Provided—					
(Ambulances) .	3	2619	4134	739	37835
(Cars)	2	577	1258	33	17283
B. By Agency—					
(Ambulances) .	4	868	868	115	15987
(Cars)	—	—	—	—	—
(Chester City Amb.)					
C. Supplementary—					
(Ambulances) .	—	—	—	—	—
(Cars)	—	1751	2025	21	36438
(W.V.S. Taxi, etc)					
D. No. of Drivers (other than Commercial) available for Supplementary Services included in "C" above—35					

In the early part of the year arrangements were made to acquire an adequate Depot. A new Austin Ambulance arrived and a staff of two full time permanent drivers and two attendants were appointed, in addition to the retention of the services of two part time drivers for night and weekend duty. The Committee was now able to carry out its duties under this section with more efficiency and satisfaction. The need, however, remains for the early replacement of the two old Ambulances—both over 20 years old—by new vehicles, and so reduce the running costs and maintenance, and increase the efficiency of the Service.

Towards the middle of the year the increased use of the hire car service, i.e. taxis and W.V.S. transport, and the mounting costs for the transport of "sitting cases", caused the Committee to recommend the purchase of two cars for this transport service, together with the appointment of two drivers, and an additional attendant.

Both these cars have been in full use during the latter half of the year, and the use of hired cars has diminished accordingly.

An establishment of vehicles and personnel was fixed by the Divisional Committee and approved by the County Staffs Committee as follows:—

Vehicles		Personnel	
Ambulances	3	Senior Driver	1
Sitting Case Cars	2	Ambulance Drivers	2
		Ambulance Attendants ...	3
		Sitting Case Car Drivers	2
		Part Time Drivers	2
	—		—
	5		10
	—		—

(SECTION 28)

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS.

Care and After Care—Tuberculosis.

The formation of a Tuberculosis After-Care Sub-Committee had been deferred pending a complete assessment of the needs for Tuberculosis in the area. An investigation into all cases of tuberculosis on the Register (some 500) was commenced during the year, and initial results showed that considerable revision was necessary to bring the Register up to date, to form an accurate picture of the number and the types of cases in the area, following the movements of population during and following the war.

The shortage of sanatoria and hospital beds, the lack of adequate housing accommodation, and the prevalence of overcrowding have aggravated the problem of the tuberculous patient.

With regard to after-care of other types of illness, better liason with, and information from, the hospitals have increased the Committee's scope for dealing with such cases. There remains, however, the need for more Convalescent Homes for the rehabilitation of cases discharged from hospital, and after illnesses at home. The problem of the aged and chronic sick is difficult, as so many of those cases require prolonged institutional treatment, especially where, as frequently happens, relatives are not available to look after them adequately at home.

A. No. of cases investigated in Division :—

(i) Tuberculosis—311.

(ii) Other than tuberculosis—6. (Of these cases two were recommended for accommodation as defined by Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948; three cases were recommended for Hospital accommodation as defined by Section 79(1) of the National Health Service Act, 1946;

and one case was the subject of a Health Visitor's report, which was passed to Clatterbridge General Hospital, who in turn took appropriate action).

- B. Number of cases placed in employment (Disabled Persons Acts)—Nil.
- C. Particulars of loans of nursing equipment, charges made and details of Applicants unable to pay full amount—

Two cases were brought to the attention of the Committee; in one case it was decided to suspend the rental and deposit charges; and in the other, that the charges remain unaltered in view of lack of information given by the applicant.

(SECTION 29)

DOMESTIC HELPS.

In the early days of the organisation of this scheme, Domestic Helps were difficult to secure. Since then, however, as the rates of pay have been increased from 1/6 to 2/- per hour, these services have been readily available.

They were used in the first instance mainly for confinement cases at home; but as the Scheme became more widely known, they have been used in most types of illness (with the exception of infectious diseases), and especially in chronic illnesses where help is not available in the home.

An establishment of seven whole-time Domestic Helps was fixed by the Divisional Committee; only two permanent whole-time Domestic Helps have, however, been appointed, and they are based on the Ellesmere Port Urban District, to be available mainly for confinement cases.

In the remainder of the Division it has been found more satisfactory to rely on temporary Domestic Helps. In many instances their services are not required on a whole-time basis, two or three hours daily work being sufficient for the needs of many cases of chronic illness.

As the Scheme is not a free service and charges are based on financial means, some cases who find the assessment charges high prefer to employ this help on a part time basis, and in other cases prefer to make their own arrangements. In a number of instances the Divisional Committee has reduced the assessment charges on appeal.

Suitable applicants for service as Temporary Domestic Helps were secured by advertisement in the Press. The Health Visitors interviewed these women and compiled a list of those who appeared satisfactory, and it is from this list that the Domestic Helps are drawn. Indeed, much of the success and smooth working of the Scheme is due to the helpful co-operation of the County Health Visitors in making the necessary arrangements between patients and Domestic Helps, and in exercising supervision of their work in individual cases.

A. Number of Applicants	155
B. Number of Domestic Helps working—	
(1) Permanent	2
(2) Temporary	76
C. Number of cases attended	135
D. Special cases for report	11

Eleven cases were brought to the attention of the Committee during the year, and it was decided that in seven cases the contribution be suspended; in three cases the contribution was reduced, and in the remaining case the contribution was allowed to be paid in instalments.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—PART III.

As will be seen under Section 28 above, several cases have been examined by me with a view to their admission to a Residential Establishment for Elderly Persons. In this connection I would point out that in my capacity as the County Medical Officer of Health's representative, it is part of my duty to visit Shotwick House, Great Saughall, twice each year, in order to carry out an inspection from a medical point of view. I visited Shotwick House in June and December, 1949, and on each occasion was impressed with the excellent conditions under which the old people were living, and the general atmosphere of well being and comfort within the Establishment.

An average number of 62 aged people of both sexes are accommodated at this Hostel, and I was surprised to learn how few changes occur amongst the residents from year to year, considering their ages (14 deaths in 14 years).

ESTIMATES.

The Annual Estimates for the year 1950/51 were presented at the December Meeting of the Committee and the following is a summary which was recommended for approval to the County Health Committee.

	£
Vaccination and Immunisation	4121
Domestic Help Service	3530
Ambulance Service	6388
Health Propaganda	50
Child Welfare Centres, Ellesmere Port and Little Sutton	3941
Day Nurseries, Ellesmere Port and Little Sutton	11414
Ante Natal Clinic, Ellesmere Port	520
Home Nursing	900
Occupational Therapy	50
Convalescent Treatment for Mothers and Babies	50
Care and After Care	390
Administration	3393
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Total ...	£34747
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